

US-CLAIMS

1. A dosing and dispensing system, comprising a liquid detergent composition and a dosing and dispensing device, wherein the liquid detergent composition is a non-Newtonian fluid having a viscosity profile such that, when in rest or up to an applied shear stress of 10 Pa, the viscosity is at least 100 Pa.s, and such that under a shear stress of at least 100 Pa the viscosity is at most 5 Pa.s, and wherein the device comprises

- (a) a hollow body having an opening and containing the liquid detergent composition; and
- (b) dispensing means to spread at least a portion of the liquid detergent composition onto fabrics, comprising:
 - (i) a cavity having a mouth and at least one orifice; and
 - (ii) a ball present within said cavity and communicating with said orifice, said ball being freely rotatable in all directions.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the liquid detergent composition is at least 500 Pa.s, preferably at least 1000 Pa.s, when in rest or under a shear stress of up to 10 Pa.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein the shear thinning properties of the liquid detergent composition are such that its viscosity under a shear stress of 100 Pa or greater is at most 1 Pa.s.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein the liquid detergent composition contains suspended therein agglomerates or capsules, having a diameter of from 0.5 to 2 mm.
5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the diameter of said mouth is at least slightly smaller than the diameter of said ball, and said ball protrudes partly outside of said mouth.
6. A system according to claim 1, wherein said ball contains dimples uniformly distributed over the outer surface thereof.
7. A system according to claim 6, wherein said dimples have a circular, ovoid or polyhedral cross-section.
8. A system according to claim 6, wherein the size of the dimples is controlled such that they have a depth and surface diameter which are at least twice as large as the diameter of the agglomerates or capsules.
9. A system according to claim 6, wherein the surface diameter of the dimples is no greater than $0.2\pi r$, wherein r is the radius of the ball.
10. Process for pretreating and washing fabrics in a washing machine with the dosing and dispensing system according to any of the preceding claims, said process comprising the following steps:
 - (a) introducing the total quantity of a liquid detergent composition according to claim 1 to be used for pretreatment and washing into the dosing and dispensing device;

- (b) pretreating the fabrics with a controlled quantity of the liquid detergent composition by rubbing action of the ball; and
- (c) placing the thus-pretreated fabrics in the drum of a washing machine together with the dosing and dispensing device and with other non-pretreated fabrics.